

Dear FCC Commissioners & Staff:

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It is my understanding that the Commission is currently considering regulations that will, in essence, restrict the ability of internet service providers other than telephone and cable companies to offer broadband services such as DSL.

I think that this is a terrible idea that is rife with potential for unintended consequences. By restricting free enterprise, competition will be severely reduced. Since price is a function of supply and demand, a reduction in the supply of available access points (ISPs) will likely increase the demand for service on the remaining providers. As they are already struggling with cash flow issues related to antiquated fixed plant assets, this supply shortage will not be satisfied in a short-term time frame at current pricing. Since supply will be shrinking or limited, while demand is at worst stable (more likely increasing), a rapid escalation of price is a very likely outcome. Increased pricing will reduce demand to manageable levels, but a large number of users will likely be priced out of the market totally. This type of curtailment of access will only stifle innovation and likely result in greatly reduced opportunities for both businesses and individuals for many years or decades into the future. In the current globally-competitive economy, with other industrialized and developing nations becoming better at exploiting any competitive advantage they find, we can ill afford this type of scenario happening in the United States while the rest of the world remains unfettered.

Please give this issue a great deal of thought, and consider both short and long term consequences before you decide. I firmly believe that a mistake in this area could cripple our country economically, and have serious repercussions for our people and our national security.

Thank you for your time in consideration of my thoughts on this subject.

Sincerely,

Gregory Paul Mabrey  
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